

70. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 67, wherein the network and links provide the terminals access to the Internet.

71. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 67, wherein the network and links provide the terminals access to a plurality of services including digital broadcast services, the Internet and electronic mail.

72. (Original) The computer program product according to claim 55, wherein the system periodically repeats executing the computer program logic.

73. (Original) The computer program logic according to claim 55, wherein the system periodically repeats executing the computer program logic method every two minutes.

74. (Original) The computer program logic according to claim 55, wherein the system repeats executing the computer program logic when a link is close to being broken.

REMARKS

The applicants have carefully reviewed the office action mailed on June 4, 2004. In that office action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 - 30 under 35 U.S.C. §103 over U.S. Patent No. 6,061,562 to Martin et al. ("Martin") and allowed the remaining claims, claims 31 - 74. The applicants thank the Examiner for allowing those claims. In response, the applicants have amended independent claim 1 to highlight that, according to an embodiment of the applicants'

invention, a network coverage area is extended to reach a mobile platform and the mobile platform itself includes end user terminals coupled to a local area network for providing network access to end users. The applicants have also canceled claims 28 and 29.

In the office action with respect to claims 1 - 30, the Examiner indicated that Martin teaches a method of providing access to a mobile platform via at least one network node. The applicants note that Martin teaches establishing links between mobile nodes in order to provide network access to end users on the ground located in fixed, non-mobile coverage areas. (See Martin, Fig. 1).

By contrast, according to an embodiment of the present invention, network access is provided through one or more mobile nodes to extend the coverage area of a network to reach a mobile platform. There is no limitation on the extended coverage area and thus the mobile platform may be positioned anywhere relative to the network access point. Moreover, the mobile platform itself includes end user terminals coupled to a local area network.

Because Martin does not teach extending a coverage area of a network, but rather teaches establishing a fixed cell coverage area on the ground and because Martin lacks a teaching of a mobile platform for providing network access to end user terminals associated with the mobile platform, Martin does not teach or suggest the subject matter of amended independent claim 1 or claims depending therefrom.

For the foregoing reasons, reconsideration and allowance of claims 1 – 30 is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions about this Amendment and to facilitate prosecution, the Examiner is encouraged to call the undersigned attorney.

Serial No. 09/828,845

Respectfully submitted,

SWIDLER BERLIN SHEREFF FRIEDMAN, L.L.P.

Dated: December 6, 2004

By:



Robert C. Bertin, Registration No. 41,488
3000 K Street, NW, Suite 300
Washington, D.C. 20007
(202) 424-7500 Telephone
(202) 295-8478 Facsimile